

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the Application. A first Office Action was mailed on April 29, 2005. Applicants subsequently filed a response to the first Office Action on July 28, 2005. The present Office Action is in response to the filing on July 28, 2005.

Election/Restrictions

On page 2 of the present Office Action, the Examiner imposed a restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 having identified two purportedly distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-9 drawn to a distributed access control system including local and central servers; and
- II. Claims 10-20 drawn to directing user access requests to certain servers in a distributed system.

Applicants hereby elect to proceed with examination of Group II (claims 10-20), and cancels the claims of Group I (claims 1-9) as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Additionally, Applicants have added new claim 21 which provides a system in "means for" format based on claim 10.

Response to Applicants' Arguments

It is noted that arguments to patentability rejections were provided in the response file on July 28, 2005. The Examiner in the present Office Action does not provide any response to Applicants' arguments. Since Applicants have not received a response as to the merits of those arguments, Applicants assume that the previous traverses are persuasive and request a notice of allowance following Examiner's review of Applicants' response to the current restriction requirement.

Based on the amendments and foregoing remarks, Applicants believe that the Application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the case, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Hal Hildebrand et al.

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